Complicated Grief

The Worst Loss:
Working with Families Learning To Live With
The Loss Of A Child and Sibling

Presented by Amy Olshever, LCSW and Amy Kirschenblatt, LMSW

Children are not supposed to die before their parents; this is not the natural course of life events and the loss of a child can be catastrophic to a family. This session will cover the unique aspects of working with adults experiencing complicated grief resulting from the loss of their child and for siblings of those children, mourners who are often invisible. This session will provide participants with tools to identify complicated parental and adult sibling grief, interventions for addressing this level of grief with examples from our practice, interventions for clinician self-care and additional educational resources.

Bio: Amy Olshever, LCSW
I have been a practicing social worker for over 25 years with chronically ill and terminally ill patients and their families. Since 2003 I have worked exclusively in the field of end of life/hospice care and bereavement. In addition to my work as a social worker, field instructor, social work manager, social work director and currently Clinical Director, I am also adjunct faculty at Adelphi University and have taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels integrating bereavement and end of life issues into all the courses I have taught. I have completed my doctoral course work and research and am now writing the findings for my dissertation on home health aides in end of life care. I have also recently published two articles in the journal, Groupwork.

Bio: Amy Kirschenblatt, LMSW
After years of working in the field of Vocational Rehabilitation, I decided to pursue a more clinical path and have been practicing Social Work since 2003. Most of my professional work has been centered on dealing with loss. After working in Hospice, I began running groups for Gilda’s Club NYC while working in the NYC Board of Education providing individual and group counseling to teens living with a variety of both personal and family losses. I currently work part time in a Pre-Natal Care clinic providing counseling to women facing both medical and social challenges in their pregnancy as well as run the Adult Sibling Loss Support Groups for the COPE Foundation.